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Luisa Rivera

Flora, fauna, giant magical ladies, and Virginia Woolf?

We're on board!



Paper Darts is a longtime fan of [Luisa Rivera](http://www.luisarivera.cl/) (<http://www.luisarivera.cl/>). Originally from Chile, Rivera now lives and works in London. But before living in London, she lived in Minneapolis, the original nesting place for Paper Darts. We have ties to her that we never want to sever, but mostly because she's an incredible artist and human. Rivera uses water-based paints, such as acrylic, pencil, watercolor, and gouache, to create quick thumbnail sketches. Both the female figure and nature are at the heart of her work. After finding her favorite direction, Rivera goes large-scale, fiercely relying on her intuition and gut to compose each piece.



The Bond

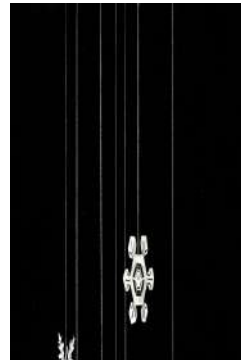
The Secrets of the Night

What's your earliest art memory?

"I don't know if it's the first one, but definitely one that stuck with me: the first time I managed to draw the skeleton of a star. I had tried it a thousand times before, and nothing, but one day I was drawing something else and, without thinking, it came out. I do not know why it's special, but it was one of those moments of self-consciousness when I saw it on paper."



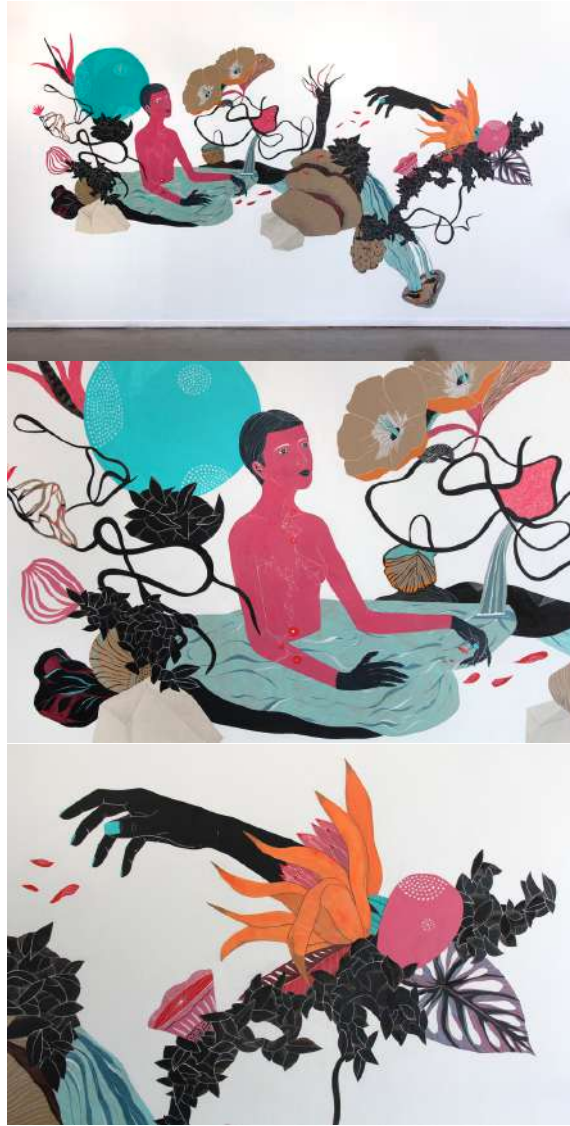
Twins, Intertwined



Collectors

"I grew up surrounded by illustrated books, but illustration wasn't a career path in Chile. You were either strictly a visual artist or a graphic designer, so it never occurred to me to become an illustrator when I was growing up."

— Luisa Rivera



"SPREADER" 15-FT WIDE MURAL (APRIL 2015) - PUBLIC FUNCTIONARY, MINNEAPOLIS

From stars to full-world environments, Rivera creates illustrations for books, magazines, newspapers, and exhibitions. Her figurative and narrative style is inspired by nature, folk culture, literature, as well as magical realism, a genre where the supernatural becomes an everyday occurrence in the storytelling process.





Rivera spends her days working and creating illustrations. But she will often find time to view other art exhibitions, read a book, or walk around the city. Her ideal workspace includes natural light, good music, art materials, and books that inspires her.



Yakushima



Yonder



Do you believe in ghosts?

"Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't."



Aliens?

"Technically, *alien* comes from the world *alienus*, meaning foreign or strange. In that sense, I'm probably an alien to many people. So, yes, I do believe in aliens, and I support my group!"



Given the prompt "Based on a True Story," Rivera decided to illustrate a snippet of Virginia Woolf's last diary entry, which was dated March 24, 1941, four days before her passing.

Check out the comic below.





In 2016, Rivera began exploring her own ideas of solitude through a series entitled "Human Island." The following three images are from that series:



"[Human Island] reflects on the idea of solitude and how, in that state of mind, the body becomes a container, a refuge, a home."





Rivera's nights are spent sleeping like a baby.

Resting and breathing are important to her creative process. Breathing correctly helps her through creative blocks, and Rivera allows the breath to guide her.





"I prefer to see projects as a chain of events rather than isolated occurrences, because whatever I have done in the past shaped what I am doing today."



Join the Luisa Rivera fan club and follow her on Instagram.

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